Serial No. 10/688,911

IN THE CLAIMS:

The text of all pending claims, (including withdrawn claims) is set forth below. Cancelled and not entered claims are indicated with claim number and status only. The claims as listed below show added text with <u>underlining</u> and deleted text with <u>strikethrough</u>. The status of each claim is indicated with one of (original), (currently amended), (cancelled), (withdrawn), (new), (previously presented), or (not entered).

Please CANCEL claims 14 and 16-35 and ADD new claim 36 in accordance with the following:

1-35. (Cancelled)

36. (New) A method for use in an image processing apparatus, the method comprising: executing a main program in the image processing apparatus, wherein the main program

is automatically executed in response to powering on of the image processing apparatus;

removably receiving a portable storage unit in an interface of the image processing apparatus;

determining whether the portable storage unit includes an execution file relating to the main program loaded in a memory of the image processing apparatus; and

executing the execution file stored in the portable storage unit as a plug-in program of the main program loaded in a memory of the image processing apparatus,

wherein the plug-in program does not have an independent interface and can only be used by being connected with the main program and provides additional function to the main program that was not previously supported by the main program.